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20 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
21 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
22 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

23 ORACLE AMERICA, INC.

Case No. CV 10-03561 WHA

24 Plaintiff,

**ORACLE'S MEMORANDUM
DESCRIBING ITS PLAN FOR
STREAMLINING THE CASE FOR
TRIAL**

25 v.

26 GOOGLE INC.

Dept.: Courtroom 9, 19th Floor
Judge: Honorable William H. Alsup

27 Defendant.

1 Pursuant to the Court's April 25, 2011 Order Requesting Memoranda, Oracle America
 2 ("Oracle") hereby sets forth its plan for reducing the number of claims to a triable number by the
 3 trial date and how to account for the PTO reexaminations currently in progress.

4 **I. SCHEDULE FOR REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PATENT CLAIMS AND
 5 PRIOR ART REFERENCES**

6 Oracle presently asserts that Google infringes 132 different patent claims in seven patents.
 7 The smallest number of patent claims asserted from one patent is five, from the '205 patent; the
 8 largest is thirty-one, from the '104 patent.

9 At the same time, Google presently asserts that thirty-one references anticipate and
 10 twenty-one combinations of references render obvious the asserted claims of seven patents-in-
 11 suit, based on the charts that it provided with its invalidity contentions. Google also served a 24-
 12 page list of more than 500 prior art references that, in some unexplained manner, Google alleged
 13 could be combined to render obvious the patents-in-suit. Google has also asserted many other
 14 grounds of invalidity against the patent claims, such as definiteness, written description,
 15 enablement, and double patenting. Many of Google's invalidity contentions are inconsistent and
 16 presented in the alternative: Google contends that many patent claims are not enabled but also
 17 contends that the same claims are enabled by the prior art.

18 So how shall the parties streamline the case? It is important that it be done in a way that
 19 respects due process and does not prejudice the parties, yet at the same time promotes sound
 20 judicial administration. *See In re Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litig.*, No. 09-1450, —
 21 F.3d —, 2011 WL 607381, at *2, *3, *4 (Fed. Cir. Feb. 18, 2011) (finding that district court's
 22 multi-stage claim selection procedure applied to asserted patents sharing a common genealogy
 23 did not violate due process). For the reasons discussed in Section II, the reexaminations will not
 24 be helpful in this regard, mainly because this case will conclude long before any of the
 25 reexaminations do.

26 Oracle is amenable to a process for limiting the number of asserted patent claims that also
 27 limits the number of asserted grounds of invalidity. The process should be tied to key events in
 28 the case and ensure the parties will fairly benefit from fact and expert discovery that test their

1 theories of the case. It makes sense to have an initial reduction of claims and references in
 2 advance of expert reports. Another reduction can be made after the expert reports but before
 3 dispositive motions are filed. The last and final reduction should be connected to the pretrial
 4 conference, when the Court and the parties determine how the trial is to proceed.

5 Oracle proposes the following schedule:

Date	Event
June 30, 2011	Oracle narrows the number of its asserted claims to 75
July 8, 2011	Google narrows its asserted prior art references or combinations of references to 4 per patent
September 2, 2011	Oracle narrows the number of its asserted claims to 35 Google narrows its invalidity contentions to 3 asserted grounds of invalidity per patent
October 17, 2011	Oracle identifies a triable number of asserted patent claims Google identifies a triable number of invalidity grounds
Final pretrial conference	

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17 To compare to the current scheduling order, initial expert reports are due on July 29 and
 18 the deadline for dispositive motions is September 8. For purposes of counting, one of Google's
 19 invalidity charts can be counted as one ground, reference, or combination.

20 This proposal takes advantage of the momentum that the Court's schedule has established.
 21 The parties have exchanged hundreds of pages of infringement and invalidity contentions.
 22 Discovery is proceeding quickly, with depositions, document productions, and interrogatory
 23 responses well under way. The parties selected their most significant terms for construction (four
 24 selected by Google and two selected by Oracle), the Court has issued a tentative claim
 25 construction order, and this phase of the claim construction process is nearly finished.

26 Oracle's proposal also draws upon the approach taken by Judge Whyte in *Software Rights*
 27 *Archive LLC v. Google Inc.*, No. 08-cv-3172-RMW-PVT, slip op. at 3 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2010).

1 That case involves three closely related patents involved in concurrent reexaminations and no
 2 claim construction hearing had yet occurred. Judge Whyte's approach was to have the patent
 3 owner promptly reduce the number of asserted claims from 64 to 20, the defendants promptly
 4 narrow their invalidity contentions from more than a hundred references to 3 anticipatory
 5 references and 3 obviousness combinations per claim, and the patent owner to again reduce the
 6 number of claims after the claim construction order issues (the briefing had not yet begun).
 7 Oracle's proposal here is proportional to Judge Whyte's approach because this case involves six
 8 unrelated patents (only the '447 and '476 patents have similar specifications) whereas the
 9 *Software Rights Archive* case involved three patents having similar specifications.

10 **II. THE REEXAMINATION PROCEEDINGS DO NOT PROVIDE ANY
 11 ADVANTAGE TO EITHER PARTY OR THE COURT**

12 From a case management perspective, the pending reexaminations will provide little if any
 13 benefit to the Court or the parties. Oracle does not see a way to depend on them without dramatic
 14 disruption to the schedule set by the Court. The circumstances here do not warrant a stay.

15 Under the current schedule, the trial in this case will be finished well before the
 16 reexaminations conclude. According to current PTO statistics, the average number of months
 17 between a reexamination request and the issuance of a reexamination certificate is 31.8 months
 18 for *ex parte* reexamination and 37.9 months for an *inter partes* reexamination. One would thus
 19 predict Google's reexaminations to end no sooner than late 2013. Employing a very aggressive
 20 estimate, in which the Patent Office acts near-instantaneously and every examiner decision is
 21 adverse to Oracle, the first opening appeal brief would be due at the Board of Patent Appeals and
 22 Interferences in January 2012. It is not at all clear that this Google-optimistic estimate could be
 23 realized in practice, particularly given the recent substantial reduction in the PTO's budget and
 24 the cancellation of all examiner overtime. Add to this scenario the fact that Board has been
 25 resolving reexaminations in six months to a year, and that an appeal to the Board would be
 26 followed by an appeal to the Federal Circuit, 2013 for the earliest conclusion is quite optimistic.

27 The Court should not assume that the reexaminations will be favorable to Google. Events
 28 in the reexaminations will occur on a patent-by-patent, claim-by-claim, reference-by-reference

1 basis. As a matter of probability, some decisions will favor Oracle, some will favor Google. That
 2 has already happened. The PTO disagreed with Google about six of the eight grounds asserted
 3 against the '205 patent and has limited the scope of that *inter partes* reexamination accordingly.
 4 The PTO agreed with Google with respect to arguments made against the '720 patent and has
 5 issued rejections based on those arguments. The PTO disagreed with Google regarding three
 6 claims of the '520 patent and declined to reexamine them. Two of those claims are asserted in
 7 this case, and so, at this moment, there are two asserted claims from the '520 patent that are not
 8 part of any reexamination proceeding.

9 With respect to the reexaminations, Google has taken different approaches in the different
 10 types of proceedings. In the two *inter partes* reexaminations (for the '205 and '720 patents),
 11 Google provided all of the charts from its invalidity contentions in this case, presumably because
 12 of the estoppel that attaches to *inter partes* reexamination proceedings. In the five *ex parte*
 13 reexaminations, however, Google withheld many of its prior art references from its reexamination
 14 requests, and instead chose to present only a selection to the Patent Office.

15 The consequence of Google's approach is that Google may file serial *ex parte*
 16 reexamination requests whenever the PTO makes a decision Google does not like. Google has
 17 already done this. Google responded to the PTO's finding that Google failed to raise a substantial
 18 new question of patentability with respect to three claims of the '520 patent by filing a second *ex*
 19 *parte* reexamination request, asserting a different combination of references. By reserving most
 20 of its art, Google is well-armed to repeat this process.

21 The fact that the *inter partes* reexaminations will always trail this litigation means they are
 22 not relevant. Under the reexamination statute, they will be dismissed before they are concluded.
 23 For any patent claim for which Google fails to carry its burden of proving invalidity in court, 35
 24 U.S.C. § 317 provides that, after a final federal court decision on the merits, "an inter partes
 25 reexamination requested by that party or its privies on the basis of such issues may not thereafter
 26 be maintained by the Office." 35 U.S.C. § 317; MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE
 27 § 2686.04. And if there were a patent claim for which Google succeeded in carrying its burden in
 28 court, the inter partes reexamination would be dismissed as well. *See id.* Google may crow about

1 the initial rejections in the '720 *inter partes* reexamination, but it is the jury this October who will
2 decide the fate of that patent, not the examiner.

3 **III. CONCLUSION**

4 It makes sense for the parties to focus their infringement and validity cases in an
5 organized manner. It does not make sense for the Court to surrender management of its docket to
6 the Patent Office. The schedule of this case should not be tied to the unpredictable schedule of
7 the reexaminations—the different proceedings run on their own individual tracks.

8
9 Respectfully submitted,

10 Dated: April 29, 2011

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